

News and Information

from the Tennessee Division of Consumer Affairs

615.741.4737 or toll-free 800.342.8385

www.state.tn.us/consumer

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CONTACT:

Mark Williams

Wendy Waldron

STUDENTS TO COMPETE FOR STATE TITLE IN *LifeSmarts* COMPETITION

- What does your credit limit represent?
- What is the purpose of the Lemon Law?
- What is computer piracy?

NASHVILLE, TN, March 21, 1998 -- What does your credit limit represent? What is the purpose of the Lemon Law? What is computer piracy? These and other questions will be answered by high school students from across the state when they compete for the title of **Tennessee's LifeSmarts Champions**. "LifeSmarts..the Ultimate Consumer Challenge" is a unique educational competition, sponsored by the Tennessee Division of Consumer Affairs and the National Coalition for Consumer Education (NCCE), to educate students about important consumer and marketplace issues.

The high school students will compete face-to-face -- **March 21, 1998 at the Clubhouse Inn, Downtown-Nashville, TN** -- to answer important life questions in the areas of health & safety, personal finance, environment, technology, and consumer rights & responsibilities. Winners of the state competition will compete in the regional and national championships in Phoenix, AZ in April.

More than two hundred registrants participated in a three-tier Internet testing portion of the competition in January. Only the highest scorers, the most consumer savvy teenagers, will be competing in the state finals. Tennessee is the first and only state to send a team to nationals as a result of utilizing the Internet for the competition.

"This is a unique learning experience for everyone involved," said Mark Williams, director of the Division of Consumer Affairs. "Teenagers throughout the state are learning marketplace strategies that will protect them for the rest of their lives. Not only are they participating in an exciting competition, but teachers are using the curriculum as a learning tool for their economics and social study classes."

Six teams will be coming to Nashville to compete in the state championship. The teams will be divided as follows:

- *Benton Hall School*: Nathan Phillips - coach
Students: Jamie Blankeney, Mike Keene, Andrew Chervenak, David Boltz, Kenneth Degenhardt
- *Oliver Springs High School - Team 1*: Becky Bowman - coach
Students: Dan Craze, Jennifer Ladd, Jeff Ollis, Zach DeWerff, Fairlena Googe
- *Oliver Springs High School - Team 2*: Terry Hacker - coach
Students: Bradley Lambert, Kelli Sharp, Amanda Holmes, Wendy Lynn, Robin Rayborn
- *Milan High School - Team 1*: Linda Truex - coach
Students: Jon Johnson, Tanna Scott, Michael Dodson, Jennifer Bell, Sabrina Peete

- *Milan High School - Team 2:* Lisa Bradford - coach
Students: Audrey Norman, Emily Neumann, Tim Bogue, Scott Beasley, David Williams
- *West Tennessee Independent Team:* Angelika Hall - coach
Students: Chris Hall (Home School in Bartlett), Deirdre Gabel (Gibson County High School), Erin Baker (Kirby High School), Dawn Watkins (South Pittsburg High School), Shaun Brockett (Gibson County High School)

The National Coalition for Consumer Education is a nonprofit partnership of professionals from both the public and private sectors along with state coordinators who work together using innovative ideas to improve consumer knowledge across the country. Located in Madison, NJ, NCCE has been building partnerships to promote consumer education since 1981. National financial support for the program is provided by MCI Telecommunications Corporation.

The Tennessee Division of Consumer Affairs would like to recognize Southwest Airlines as the exclusive and official airline for Tennessee's LifeSmarts program. The Division would also like to thank the Cracker Barrel Old Country Store and Central South Music Sales, Inc. for their support and sponsorship of the program.